



FRONTISPICE.



Such little folks as would be great,
Must Tommy Titmouse imitate.

THE
HISTORY
OF
TOMMY TITMOUSE,

A LITTLE BOY,

Who became a Great Man by minding his Learning, doing as he was bid, and being good-natured and obliging to every Body.

TOGETHER WITH

The ADVENTURES of the OLD MAN
of the WOODS, and other STORIES
equally pleasing and instructive.

EMBELLISHED WITH CUTS.

DUBLIN:

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THIS little Book, published by desire of Mr. T. Titmouse, and his uncle, Mr. Worthy, is recommended to all little Boys who would become great Men, for whose good it is printed; and it is hoped that none who love learning and good behaviour will read it without being diverted by the pleasing stories it contains, and benefitted by its lessons of instruction.

THE
HISTORY
OF
TOMMY TITMOUSE.

THE hero of our history was a little boy, who having lost his father and mother, was left under the care of Mr. Worthy, his uncle, that loved him as if he had been his own child, and Tommy was taught to obey him as if he had been his father.

And indeed, Tommy gave early tokens that he was likely to be

a good child, which made his uncle encourage him, who used often to tell him, if he would read his book and be careful, he would become a great man. Now, as he was a little boy, you know that must be very desirable ; and, in order to help him, his good kinsman always rewarded him when he behaved well, and used to give him fruit, sugar-plumbs, and cakes. He also gave him several little books that are made on purpose for young folks, a variety of which may be had at your old friend, W.M. JONES's, Thomas-street.

Tommy



Tommy had besides a nurse, who had lived a long while in the family, and was very fond of him, whose name was Trueby, and she used to take care of him in his uncle's absence, and was always telling him what was for his good. So he informed her what a present of books he had got. "Aye! (says she,) come let me hear if you

can read in any of them," which he did immediately, and this so pleased her that she gave him a fine fiddle that she had bought at the fair, and promised him other pretty things to encourage him in his learning, among which she said he should have a gilt Primer and Psalter, if he took care not to be naughty, and would always say his prayers night and morning. This he promised; and as he always kept his word, we find that he did not forget to do so.

Above all things she taught him never to tell lies nor tales, which, as she justly said, was the way for God and all people to love him. "If you tell tales, (says she,) nobody will like you to be in company, and so you will lose many a good thing ; and if you give

Tommy Titmouse. - 11

give yourself to lying, you will commit a great sin, besides that in that case nobody will believe you even when you tell the truth."

" Very well, nurse, (answered Tommy.) I believe what you say, and I am sure I shall behave as you tell me.

I have told you that my hero was but a little boy, and I don't say he was quite without his faults. Now it happened one day that observing an image on the mantle-piece that he could not reach, he climbed to get at it, and, in so doing, threw down some fine china cups and saucers, which were broken in pieces. - This put poor Tommy into a sad taking : he knew his uncle valued the china, and feared he should be corrected for what he had done ; but, on



the other hand, he remembered what nurse Trueby had said, and feared more to tell a lie. So, considering all things, he resolved not to add one fault to another ; but as soon as it was asked who has done the mischief, to acknowledge it at once. It happened that the maid was suspected, and though he truly said he had not done any such

such thing ; yet the housekeeper not believing her, words arose and she was likely to lose her place upon the occasion ; when Tommy came in, and, in the presence of his uncle, owned the whole truth. The old gentleman then said, " Tommy, you were very wrong in climbing to reach what you had no business to touch, by which means the accident happened ; but you would have done worse if you had tried to hide the fault you committed, by telling a lie about it ; besides, you see the harm it might have occasioned, but as it is, all shall be forgiven and forgotten."

This behaviour of Tommy Titmouse made Sally his friend, who besides being herself a good girl, was not afraid of what she did.

did or said before him, as he observed the rule never to bear tales, as some children are too apt to do, which only serves to make mischief, and is sure to get them hated wherever they go.

Another time, Tommy coming suddenly into the kitchen, Sally, not seeing him, shut the door so violently upon him, that he fell down and hurt himself; but, instead of going to complain as some would have done, he said nothing about the matter to any body but Sally herself, who took care to put proper things to his bruises, kissed him, and gave him some sugar cakes, though she afterwards told his uncle what had happened, who had the better opinion of his nephew for his behaviour.



At a proper time our hero was sent to school, where, as he had a good memory and minded his book, he was a favourite with his master, but the boys often used to joke him, because he was so very little ; however, that never fretted him, for he generally answered, “ as little as I am, I need not care, a little boy may make a great

a great man a last ; and I don't doubt but that will be my case at one time or another."

One day in their play some of his schoolfellows fastened him upon the back of a butcher's dog,



who left them all, and ran away with him at a grate rate, so as to frighten poor Tommy, and carried him quite out of town, when it

it was after school-hours in the evening.

At length, having disengaged himself from Tray, who made the best of his way home again, Tommy endeavoured to do the same; but, missing his road, came to the borders of a wood, and was going to turn back, when he saw an old man, with grey locks and a silver beard, but a very pleasing countenance, who stopped him, and asked him his name, and the reason of his coming that way in the evening.

Tommy told him the story, and how his schoolfellows joked him because he was so little ; “ but you know, Sir, says he, that cannot be helped, as I did not make myself.” “ True, (replied the old Gentleman,) and if you will come

along with me, I will endeavour to help you to become great ; at the same time I must tell you that the first step to be great, is to be good, and to mind your learning.



So they went together some yards farther into the wood, where the stranger shewed him a little house that he had, and very kindly

kindly invited him to come in, assuring him that he would afterwards put him in his right way, observing, that when his uncle heard how he had passed the time, he was sure he would not be angry with him for staying, especially as it was an accident that had brought him thither.

Tommy accordingly walked in with him, and found some very neat apartments, which the old man shewed him with great chearfulness, and amongst them were many pretty trinkets, which he said he kept for such good boys as came in his way, or as he happened to meet with, and some of them he gave to our hero, as an encouragement. After which he spoke to him as follows :

" You may, perhaps, wonder
B 2 little

little gentleman, to see me live in this manner. I was once an inhabitant of a neighbouring town, and had a young wife, who brought me several children; but she died, and all my little ones, except a boy whom I lost unaccountably as he was standing at the door one summer evening. I was so much shocked by the accident that I left all company, and came to this place, where I live by myself, but still desire as much as is in my power to do good to other people, and sometimes I compose books for such little gentlemen as you, and I hope they have a good effect on those whom they are intended to serve, by making them obedient to their parents and friends, and attentive to their books and good counsel."

He

He then gave Tommy some proper advice, and finding him quite tractable, foretold that he would certainly come to be a great man; a prophecy which afterwards came to pass.

Before they parted, he took Tommy into a piece of ground before the house, where there was a young woman milking a cow. "Do you see that cow, (says he) little gentleman? I keep her because she is useful and goodnatured; but if she was mischievous, or threw down the milk she gave, I should keep her no longer, because then she would be like worthless people. But as it is you see she does us service, and as a proof of it you shall have something that she produces.



And so saying he ordered a syllabub to be made for Tommy, of whom he then took leave, and shewed him his way, repeating that he would be a great man, and desiring when he was, that he would not forget the prophecy of the Man of the Woods.

It was late when Tommy came home, and his uncle had begun
to

to chide him, when he told him what an adventure he had met with ; and he was believed because he always told the truth, which is an excellent quality.

What the old gentleman had told Tommy ran so much in his head that he could not help thinking of it night and day ; and once in particular he dreamed that he was amidst an assembly of good children, where all of them were trying who was the best boy, and that he gained the prize, being a fine hat and feather, and a purse full of pocket-pieces, which he thought the Old Man of the Woods presented to him.

Some time after this, having got leave of his uncle, he went to a fair with nurse Trueby, (as he

was still a little boy), where he was entertained with shews and many pretty things, such as good boys deserve, and among the rest was particularly delighted with the show of Whittington and his Cat. “ For if so poor a boy as he came to be Lord Mayor, and ride in the gilt coach, by his industry, (says he,) who knows what goodluck Tommy Titmouse may have.” “ I hope you will have good fortune, Tommy, said the nurse. and I hope you will take care to deserve it.”

They were but just returned from the fair, when Mr. Worthy told Tommy that he had a present for him. It was a small box which contained tops and balls, with other agreeable toys, to be given to the best child in the parish,

rish, together with the History of little King Pippin.



"Now, (says Mr. Worthy,) though the box is directed for you, yet as these things are to be given to the best child in the parish, how shall I fairly determine that they belong to you?—Are you the best boy?"—"I can't tell that

Sir,

Sir, (said Tommy,) but I can say that I will endeavour to be so." —

" Then we'll lock up the box for the present," says his uncle, and it was done accordingly..

In the mean time he improved greatly in his learning ; and besides was more remarkable than any of the neighbouring children for his good-nature and obedience to his uncle, and was so obliging that every body loved him.

The Clergyman having appointed his usual time to hear the children say their catechism, and to ask them questions, Tommy Titmouse behaved so well on that occasion, that he made no scruple to declare him to be the " best boy in the parish." Tommy did not forget those words that were repeated in his uncle's presence, but



but when he went home laid claim to the contents of the box, which he said now, beyond dispute, belonged to him.

Our little hero was, however, admonished to remember that all these praises and presents could be no otherwise got than by behaving as he ought to do, and consequently that he would no longer

longer expect to have them, than while he was good, of which he was easily made sensible.

Tommy made himself so agreeable to the good Clergyman, that he got many presents from him of playthings, and at last he gave him a little ambling horse, on which Tommy, when he got leave from his uncle, and had a holiday, used to ride about the country.

And besides all this, his uncle at Easter gave him a fine suit of green clothes ; so that many of the children, who were not so good as himself, envied him ; but he had been taught never to be proud nor despise any body.

It happened by some means or other, that the little horse I was telling you of, ran something into one of his feet, and was lame for a few

a few days, which gave Tommy great concern, not only because he could not ride him, but because he was sorry for the poor thing; but he was comforted when his uncle sent for a farrier, who told him the beast would soon be well again.

In the mean time the little gentleman being used to go about the country on horseback, instead of that now took some long walks, it being holiday time, and fine weather.

As he was returning from one of these walks, being much tired, a gentleman who was riding slowly along in his chaise, perceived it, and calling to him, asked him whether he would ride a little way? Tommy accepted the offer with thanks, as the gentleman was going the same road;

and



While they were on their way, he asked our hero his name, and where he lived. When he said his name was Tommy Titmouse; "Oh (says the gentleman,) I believe I have heard of you, and that you are the best boy in the parish. Is it so?"—"I must not say of myself, Sir, (replied Tommy,) that

that I am the best boy ; but I am sure, if obeying my elders, and minding my book, and being good natured, will do, I will endeavour by God's help to do so."

The gentleman, finding his little companion so sensible, asked who had been his instructors ? " My uncle Worthy, my nurse Trueby, the good Clergyman, and the Old man of the Woods," answered he. On which the other enquired, who the Old man of the Woods was, with many other questions ; in all which Tommy gave him satisfaction.

Having set him down at his uncle's door, as he promised, he requested Mr. Worthy would let his nephew come the next day to spend a little time with him at his country house, about three miles distant,

distant, and he would send his chaise to fetch him ; which was agreed to, and the next morning Tommy was sent for accordingly, and introduced by his new friend, whose name is Lovell, to his wife, his son and daughter, who made up a very agreeable family.



“ This is master Tommy Titmouse, my dear, (says he to his lady,) ”

lady,) and Billy and Charlotte, (to the children,) I have brought you a playmate, a good and sensible boy, whom his neighbours in the next town look upon to be the best boy in the parish."

This praise was very pleasing to our hero, who used his best manners in return for it; though he did not seem to be vain, as, according to what nurse Trueby had told him, it became him to do: he remembered that he was but a little boy, though he had hopes of becoming a great man in the end.

While he remained here, Mrs. Lovewell in particular took great notice of him, and though the children did not at first seem to have any high opinion of their new guest, yet by degrees he made himself so agreeable, that Charlotte used

used to call him her little sweet-heart, and both she and her brother said they should not know how to part with him.

Now this was the more extraordinary, as their father was accustomed to set him as a pattern for Billy, and sometimes to chide him, who was a boy of twelve years old, and tall of his age, for not minding his learning so well as Tommy Titmouse, who was much less, and three years younger than himself. But Tommy said so many good natured things in their favour, that they could not but love him the better for it.

One time in particular, when they were all reading together, and the best scholar was to have a fine plumb cake of Mrs. Lovewell's own making, Tommy won it;

it ; but no sooner all was over, and they were alone together, than he insisted upon giving Billy and Charlotte each two thirds of it, thus keeping only a third part to himself, and was about to cry because he could hardly prevail on them to accept so much of it at his hands.

It was with pleasure that Mr. Lovewell observed frequent marks of such a kind disposition in his guest, to whom he resolved to be as kind in his turn. It is a fine thing to be of a good understanding and memory, and to mind your Book, but all these good qualities will be overthrown and will do but little service, if you are proud, obstinate, or ill-natured.

When Tommy had been flying his kite one day, in company with

master

master Lovewell and others, as he was returning, some of the neighbours children asked him to lend it them, which he readily did : and they tried to fly it, but were so awkward in attempting to raise it, that they struck it upon some railing, in which there were many nails, and tore it almost to pieces before they could disengage it. Now some children would have cried and raved and perhaps would even have gone to fighting upon the occasion ; and, indeed, master Lovewell was very angry, because the misfortune happened in his company, and he was acquainted with the boys that had been accessory to it : but Tommy though he was sorry his kite should be torn, made no words about the matter, but only said, "It

"It was an accident, and could not be helped," and patiently took the remains of it home, in order to mend it again as well as he could.

This behavior so pleased the person who had the chief hand in doing this accidental mischief, that the next day he made a present of a fine humming top to Tommy, and got leave to invite



him to see him at his Father's house, by which means our hero gained a new acquaintance.

. And this acquaintance was of some consequence ; for the gentleman, who had no children, no sooner saw Tommy, and found what a well-behaved boy he was, than he also took a liking to him ; so that, between him and Mr. Lovewell, Tommy was seldom a day at home in holiday time, they were so pressing with Mr. Worthy to let them have his company ; and as he saw it was agreeable, he was too good and kind to deny what he thought might turn out to his nephew's advantage.

Soon after, it happened one Christmas that the 'squire, who had been some time absent in London, returning to his seat in those

those parts invited his neighbours, feasting and keeping open house in the old English manner; and one particular day he set apart for inviting the children, each of whom was to be introduced by some friend, and Mr. Lovewell (his own children being on a visit) undertook to introduce Tommy Titmouse to the Assembly.

After feasting them on roast beef, plum pudding and minced pies, the elder children, among whom were some pretty boys, were called into a room, where a great cake was set, which was to be the prize of him that could give the best answers to questions that were to be proposed to them by Mr. Trusty, the squire's steward, and each was to give his answer apart,

apart, so as not to be heard by any body but Mr. Trufty himself. They all put in their names, and when Mr. Lovewell presented Tommy Titmouse, there were some of them that pretended to jeer, faying, “To be sure very fine answers must be expected from such a little boy as he was.” “Why indeed, said Tommy, you all appear to be bigger, and I believe most of you are older, than I am, but I shall be so bold as to take my chance among you, as the squire is kind enough to allow me to do so.”—And Mr Lovewell said, He believed *his* little boy would have as good a chance as the biggest among them.

The company being seated round the table on which the cake was set, the questions were proposed,



sed, to which various answers were given, but not one of them proper, though some seemed to be a little nearer the mark than others, till Tommy, whose lot it was to speak last, gave in his answer to the steward.

The questions were these :

- i. Amongst all the faults which children may fall into, which is

the

*The History of
the least to be excused ?*

Answer.—That of telling a lie
to conceal any of them.

2. What is the worst thing
that can happen to a child ?

Answer.—That good people
should have reason to dislike him.

3. What is the wisest thing
that a little boy can do when in
the company of his elders ?

Answer.—Not to speak but
when he is spoken to, and to be
still, in order to receive instruc-
tion.

These answers were approved
by Mr. Trusty, and all present
could not but say they were good
ones ; but how were they sur-
prized on being informed that
they were delivered by Tommy
Titmouse, the little boy whom
at first they had pretended to des-
pise !

pise ! However, his they were, and the cake, being presented to him, was carried in a sort of triumph before him to Mr. Lovewell's, who was not a little proud of the success of his little boy, as he always called him.

The 'squire made many enquiries after the little boy who had won the prize, and would never be easy till he saw Tommy, who was accordingly sent to wait on him, when he was much surprised to find the progress he had made in his learning, and often proposed him as a pattern to his own son, then about thirteen years of age, who, indeed was not much better than a booby. But Tommy, while he was caressed by his father, took care not to offend the young gentleman.

When

When he returned from his different visits he was received by his uncle with great pleasure, as well as by good nurse Trueby, who hugged him close in her arms, and declared he looked better and prettier than ever. *Pretty are they that pretty do.* And that was indeed the case with Tommy Titmouse, on whose



account

account Mr. Worthy gave a dinner, and invited a great many of the neighbouring well-behaved children to partake of the good cheer, and make their little hearts merry, - and Tommy was particularly distinguished upon the occasion.

In process of time, as little Tommy grew older, his friends began to think of putting him in some way that might be serviceable to him, when he should become a man. Some advised one thing and some recommended another; but Tommy himself, being allowed to speak, declared in favour of trade, which he had always admired.

" For trade, (said he) as Mr. Lovewell, though himself a gentleman, used to tell me, is the support

support of us all. We could not do if we had not trade, we could not live one amongst another. My uncle nor I could not even have what we wear ; no, nor could nurse Trueby or the housekeeper make a plumb pudding without it. Learning is very proper, and all good boys should be thankful for it. But if my uncle chuses to let me have a trade of any sort, I can use that learning in it, and if the worst happens to my friends, Tommy will be in some way provided for."

Mr. Worthy listened to his nephew, and he knew that he had learned accounts, as all good boys, after they can read, should mind their writing and cyphering; therefore he thought there was reason

reason in what he had said, and resolved to get him a trade as soon as he was old enough, with the first opportunity.

In the mean time a strange visitor made his appearance at Mr. Worthy's, who said the principal reason of his coming thither was to see Tommy, who was accordingly called, and was somewhat surprized to find the stranger was that very person whom we have mentioned, and with whom he was so well acquainted by the name of the Old Man of the Woods.

You have been told already that this old gentleman lost one of his children in an unaccountable manner. But he had now heard of him again. It appeared that the boy was stolen by some gypsies,

gypsies, with whom he was long forced to live, (being but a little child,) strolling with them about the country. At last escaping from their company when they were near London, he wandered till by chance he got to that fine city, where it happened that a gentleman finding him helpless in the streets, took him up, and put him to school ; and, finding him a good and tractable boy, got him apprenticed to a tradesman in the city, where he behaved so well, that he married his master's daughter when he was out of his time, and became partner with him in a very profitable business. As he then kept a country house near Blackheath, which you know is not far from Greenwich, it happened



one day that an old gypsy woman came to his house there, just as he was standing at the door, and pretended to tell his fortune, but on his talking with her out of curiosity, he discovered so much that she knew he was the person whom she had wickedly stolen away when he was an infant. But seeing things

had

had happened so well, she acknowledged the matter, begging forgiveness, and giving him an account where his father lived, as she supposed. The young gentleman accordingly went in search of him; but hearing that he had retired to a solitude, followed him to the woods where he lived, and convincing him by a mark on his breast that he was his child, he prevailed on his father to return to the world again. The old man was now going to London, whither his son was gone before him; but had called on Tommy in his way, in order to give him his last instructions.

He was highly pleased with our hero's choice of trade, and advised him how he should proceed as soon as his friends could get

get him a master in any respectable business.

At this time, nurse Trueby fell sick, and it was wonderful and pretty to observe with what care Tommy enquired after her every day, and, whenever he was allowed to do it, how he attended her—"She has often taken care of me, (says Tommy,) and to be sure now is my time to return it." Certainly he proved himself a good boy, by reasoning and behaving in such a manner. It is a fine thing to be a scholar, but it is better still to be good; and so Tommy Titmouse found, as you will hear in the sequel.

When he was about fourteen years of age, Mr. Lovewell having to go to London, proposed

to take his young friend with him, and undertook to look out for a master for him.

It was a new thing for him to go so far off from his uncle, but he knew it must be done, so he took an affectionate leave of him and of nurse Trueby, and then set off in the coach for this fine city, where they arrived in due time, without meeting with any accident or interruption.

It was not long before Mr. Loveweli found means to keep his promise to Mr. Worthy, by getting his nephew a proper master in a very good and thriving business, who was so intirely satisfied with Tommy's behaviour, that, as he grew up, he left the chief care of the trade to him, as he was obliging to the customers, careful

careful and industrious, and took particular care to make himself fully acquainted with the business, by which he was to get his livelihood.

As the gentleman to whom he had the good fortune to be bound, had a son not so old as Tommy, when he himself grew in years, he resolved to retire from trade, and leave it entirely to the young folks, which he did accordingly; and thus our hero, soon after he was out of his time became partner in a genteel business, the profits of which were continually increasing.

In this trade he continued many years, till the old gentleman and his son both dying, Mr. Thomas Titmouse, who was now grown a fine man, and worth an immense

mense deal of money, resolved to pay a visit to his friends in the country, all of whom were surprised to see him, when he came in his own coach into the town where he had formerly lived.



The neighbours cried, "Is it possible!—Can this fine gentleman be the same person, that, when a boy, we used to call Little Tommy?"

Tommy Titmouse? And the old folks shewed him to their children, crying, "Look there! and see how learning and good behaviour can make a little boy a great man."—All which discourse was very pleasing to our hero.

Having paid his obedience to his uncle, and his respects and compliments to all his friends, he returned to London, taking the old nurse with him, by her own desire, who spent the remainder of her days with her dear Tommy, as she always still called him; who has now got money enough to leave off business, and lives at a fine house at the other end of the town, where he often invites good children to come to his table, tells them how to become great men, if they will follow his advice

advice, and has desired this book to be published for their amusement and instruction. If you wish to be as great a man as Tommy Titmouse, you will do well to follow his example.

The Good Father ; or, Punishment frequently necessary.

MR. MORTON was the father of two boys : the eldest, though not nine years of age, was very obstinate and universally disliked : while on the contrary, his brother Charless was mild, good-tempered and a general favourite.

Mr. Morton had taken every lenient method to eradicate the faults of his son Edwad, in vain ; he now found with grief that he must

must use severity. Edward made a practice of continually taking the play-things from his brother, or any of the children who were kind enough to play with him ; and one day as he was amusing himself in the garden with Charles, insisted on exchanging some toy with him, but he mildly expostulating, offered to lend it to him, saying, he did not wish to part with it ; for which he received two or three smart blows.

The appearance of Mr. Morton put an end to his violence, for he had heard the contest without their knowledge ; he gave Charles leave to continue playing, and desired Edward to follow him into the house, where he thus addressed him.

It is with the utmost concern
that

that I find the injustice and violence of your temper continue— you may well appear hurt, but if you have the least feeling, it must be a sad reflection to think of your ingratitude in repaying the care of a kind father by such bad behaviour; and that is not all, for I shall not let you play any more to-day, and desire you will bring all your playthings to me, which I shall keep, till you are more contented with what is your own; and remember the next time I find the necessity of taking them under my care, I shall give them to some child who better deserves them."

Edward hung his head in sullen silence, and did not offer a reply. After dinner he was yet more mortified to see his father and brother go out without him. When

Mr.

Mr. Morton returned, he made every fair promise of amendment, though I am sorry to observe, he did not keep them. Mr. Morton gave Charles leave to invite some of his little companions on the following day, and permitted Edward to join them, when he again behaved so rudely, as to be confined for the whole of the next day. Mr. Morton now determined to punish him yet more severely; he gave him lessons for a fortnight, only allowing him a portion of time each day to walk on account of his health. Towards the expiration of the time, he was remarkably assiduous, and learnt more than he had usually done in three months. His father on the term of punishment being ended, advised him to be more

more mindful in future; assuring him that his punishment should be longer and more severe the next fault. But he had the happiness to find him quite an altered boy. So that you find severity in his case, shewed his father more his friend, than any indulgence could have done; for it is now two years since his former faulty behavior and he has been uniformly good, a pleasure to himself and friends.

F I N I S.

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KING Pippin,
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The History of Tommy Titmouse,
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Brother's Gift,
Babes in the Wood,
Whittington and his Cat,
History of a Glass Slipper,
— of Little Red Riding Hood,
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Hay Cock,
— of a Doll,
— of Robin Hood,
— of Giles Gingerbread,
— of a Foundling,
— of the Hermit of the Forest,
The Christmas Box,
The Holyday Entertainment,
Rural Felicity,
The Misfortunes of a Week,
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London Cries,
Top Book of all.

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 Nancy Cock's song Book.



